

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2009

Members Present: Lynda Walsh, Vice Chairman
Paul Mortenson, Clerk
Lorraine Brue
Larry Harrington

Others Present: Andy Gala, Town Manager
Bob Swanson, Highway Superintendent
Bill Casbarra, Building Commissioner

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Lynda Walsh, Vice Chairman.

7:00 – Citizens Input – No one present for Citizens Input.

7:05 – Board of Recreation – Andy Gala explained that Recreation Director had asked that this item be rescheduled.

ACTION:

Minutes – The Minutes for the Board of Selectmen's Meetings of September 22 and 29, 2009 were reviewed.

Motion by Paul Mortenson to approve the Minutes of September 22, 2009 as submitted. Seconded by Lorraine Brue. **Vote: 3-0-1**

Motion by Paul Mortenson to approve the Minutes of September 29, 2009 as submitted. Seconded by Larry Harrington. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Conservation Commission Resignation and Appointment – Received from Valerie Bataille-Ferry a letter of resignation from the Foxborough Conservation Commission.

Motion by Larry Harrington to accept with gratitude the resignation from the Conservation Commission of Valerie Bataille-Ferry. Seconded by Paul Mortenson. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Appointment to Conservation Commission – A brief discussion was held. Larry Harrington asked that the Board consider putting this appointment on hold until the next scheduled Board meeting to give the candidates an opportunity to add further comments. It was noted that a letter of recommendation supporting the appointment of James Marsh was received from William O. Hocking, Jr. Bob Boette, Conservation Chairman, said he would prefer that the Board make the

appointment at this meeting. Lynda Walsh, after consulting with other members of the Board, said this would be held until the next BOS meeting.

Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals – A brief discussion was held regarding the appointment of one of the Associate Members as a full member for a three-year term.

Motion by Lorraine Brue to appoint Lee S. Estabrook as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Seconded by Paul Mortenson. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Resignation from the Board of Recreation – Received from Debbie Giardino, Recreation Director, notice of the resignation of Kathy DiDonato from the Board of Recreation.

Motion by Larry Harrington to accept with gratitude the resignation of Kathy DiDonato from the Board of Recreation. Seconded by Paul Mortenson. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Appointment as Municipal Liaison – Received from the State Ethics Commission notice that each municipality must designate an employee as liaison to the State Ethics Commission.

Andy Gala explained that this appointment has to be a senior level employee and asked the Board to designate Robert E. Cutler, Town Clerk, as liaison for the Town of Foxborough.

Motion by Larry Harrington to appoint Robert E. Cutler, Jr. as liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Seconded by Paul Mortenson. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Invoice – Received from Attorney Peter J. Epstein an invoice in the amount of \$2,140.00 for professional services rendered in the month of September, 2009. Andy Gala said these services were in connection with Comcast Cable Television Licensing. He also advised the Board that only some language in the document remained to be finalized.

Motion by Paul Mortenson to approve the invoice in the amount of \$2,140.00 as submitted by Attorney Peter J. Epstein, dated October 5, 2009. Seconded by Lorraine Brue. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Bid Approvals – Andy Gala said he had received five bids for Decorative Street Light Poles and Luminaries. He explained that the RFPs had been in three parts – Supply, Install or Both. A brief discussion was held regarding where the lamps were going to be located and which budget the funding was coming from.

Motion by Paul Mortenson to approve the bids submitted by Republic ITS for Item #1 in the amount of \$27,100.00 and Anderson Electrical Contractors for Item #2 in the amount of \$6,745.00. Seconded by Lorraine Brue.

Vote: 4-0-0

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Andy Gala notified the Board that the ceremony for the start of work at the Hathaway Patterson lot on County Street is rescheduled for Friday, October 23rd.

Paul Mortenson reported that the Intervention program at Show Case Live, Patriot Place, had been an informative and rewarding discussion on drug and alcohol abuse. Chief O'Leary said it was a professional presentation on ideas on how to move things along in Foxborough.

Lorraine Brue noted that Town Counsel, Attorney Paul DeRensis, has been appointed to the Governor's Advisory Committee. This is important to Foxborough because he would be involved in any matters germane to local government and Foxborough would have "an ear" to significant legislative issues. Lorraine Brue also noted the recent increase in water and sewer rates and suggested that Larry Harrington and Lynda Walsh, as water and sewer liaisons, find revenue and ideas about the wastewater treatment facility that has not been built on Rte. 1.

7:35 – Public Hearing – Commercial Parking Regulations – Paul Mortenson read the Public Hearing Notice. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to discuss the proposed revisions to Licensing Procedures for Commercial Parking.

Bill Casbarra, Building Commissioner, explained that the suggested change in the licensing procedures was precipitated by increased traffic due to people parking cars on private property. He explained that the Town has not bothered anyone who parked no more than 10 cars. He explained that this year there have been more people parking cars and on North Street people have been parking in excess of ten cars. This has become a traffic problem. As word of the revisions to the Licensing Regulations has "gotten out" things have improved. He said that people have taken this seriously and have not, for the past two games, parked more than ten cars. Chief O'Leary pointed out that there has been improvement, traffic issues have moderated and there seems to be more self regulation. Lynda Walsh suggested leaving this issue alone at this time but the Board would reserve the right to have it come before the Board if the issue comes up again.

A discussion ensued with several residents speaking and asking for clarification of the parking regulation. Karen Lovejoy, a North Street resident, asked if she could apply for and get a license for commercial parking. Bill Casbarra explained that her home is in a zoning area not designated for

commercial parking and she would not be able to get a permit; she can park up to ten cars on her property without a permit. Other North Street residents spoke including James Gilreach, 199 North Street, Gillian Ryan, 179 North Street, and L. Patrick, 180 North St. They expressed concerns for the safety of children, parking for friends and relatives and reasons for limiting the number of parked cars allowed. Bill Casbarra explained that parking for a fee in excess of ten cars is considered commercial parking. He said if he sees that there are more than ten vehicles parked in the yard, the owners could expect a call from him.

Motion by Paul Mortenson to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Larry Harrington. **Vote: 4-0-0**

8:15 – Discussion on Meadowview Road Traffic – Bob Swanson, Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss this traffic issue. Andy Gala distributed copies of a Traffic Count conducted on 2-1/2 days recently. The report indicated no excessive traffic on a normal day. Paul Mortenson pointed out that there are two issues – traffic during Patriot games and concerts and times with normal traffic. He feels that traffic attributed to an event at the Stadium comes under the purview of the Police Chief. A discussion evolved regarding the use and location of signs directing traffic on Beach Street going to North Street, to Route 1 and left to the Stadium. After many suggestions it was agreed by members of the Board to ask Bob Swanson to put a sign on Beach Street directing traffic to North Street, thus discouraging a right turn onto Meadowview. It was noted that in many instances the GPS systems direct drivers onto Meadowview as the shortest route to the Stadium and that is what is causing the increase in truck and other vehicle traffic on that road.

Several residents of Meadowview Road were present and offered their opinions and suggestions as to what could be done to help resolve their issues on the increased traffic, particularly of large trucks. Many agreed that drivers, especially out of town people, are merely following directions on their GPS systems or other types of travel systems seeking the shortest route. The speed of traffic on Meadowview is also a major concern for those living on the road. Some residents asked that a speed limit sign be posted at 25 or even 20 miles per hour. Bob Swanson explained that any reduction in speed on the road requires a full speed study and has to be approved by the State. Addressing the speed of traffic on Meadowview in regard to the sharp curve, Bob Swanson suggested installing hard angle signs. He feels such a sign would slow traffic down.

Motion by Paul Mortenson to authorize Bob Swanson to erect a sign at Meadowview Rd. and Beach Street directing traffic straight forward as the route to Patriot Place, leaving the wording up to the Highway Superintendent. Seconded by Larry Harrington. **Vote: 4-0-0**

Leonard Lyons, 162 Beach Street, asked to speak to the Board. He is a 38-year resident of Foxborough. He said that when the Patriots got their access road on North Street, that was supposed to relieve the traffic on Beach Street; that busses were all supposed to go Mechanic Street to Chestnut Street and onto North Street. He said that has never happened. He spoke for several minutes voicing his objections about how the traffic is handled giving preference to the Stadium events. Another resident spoke of unsafe situation after an event when busses, limos, and other vehicles, sometimes even police escorts, park along the street waiting to pick up passengers. This presents a safety hazard for those local people who walk to and from the Stadium. Larry Harrington said he would try to get the facts as to what was agreed upon between the Town and the Stadium regarding how traffic would be handled.

A brief discussion was held on whether to hold the scheduled Executive Session to review and release Executive Session minutes. Lynda Walsh pointed out that since the Chairman was not present, any comments that he might want to make in reference to the minutes could not be included, therefore she cancelled the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn by Larry Harrington. Seconded by Lorraine Brue.
Vote: 4-0-0 Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Paul Mortenson, Clerk